10: Grevenbrook F-5 (ca. 1694) 1933
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Cape Hottentot
South Nguni FX17

mysteries! Behold the strenuous champions of Divine Truth! On the last day at the last judgment they shall be burned in the middle ditch of the amphitheatre by these barbarians. "This is the final spark of the woe to come."

They are beyond belief patient of heat, cold, fasting, and every kind of toil, but utterly impatient of injury, and prone to vengeance. Wherefore if a louse or a gnat sting them they put it into their mouth for no other reason than that by the law of retaliation they may chop, grind, and crush it with their teeth, and spit it out. Nothing pleases them more, they openly boast, than to return evil for evil, nor can they easily be at rest till they have satisfied their minds by the torture of their enemies. They are offensive to look at, savage in their dress, wild in their mode of life, but warlike and unaccustomed to slavery. They are as swift as the wind, often outstripping horses in fleetness of foot and Cretans in swimming.

In whiteness of soul they are superior to many of our countrymen, and in whiteness of body they are equal to some, and, in my judgment, would perhaps be so to all, if they cared for cleanliness. But as things are, what with fat and the scorching heat of the sun and the sharp pigment they put on their faces, they have grown dark and are of a swarthy brown colour. They have lively bright eyes, and the whites of their eyes and their teeth are fairer than snow. The pupils of the eyes are of a shade between brown and yellow. They have small feet and feminine hands; they are lightly built, and almost all snub-nosed. Those who live near our Cape are of middle height; but the inhabitants of the remote parts of this region are shaggy fellows, with taller and sturdier frames, and with frizzy hair.[1] Among them has been seen a king, Longurio, twelve foot high, with hair all over his body thicker than a water spaniel's.[2] To these latter the shortness of our countrymen is a matter of contempt. Sometimes they are bald in front; sometimes they wear beard and moustache and shave their heads. The women have large breasts. With the rarest exceptions I never saw one among them that was marked from birth, fat, hunch-backed, squinting, or that had varicose veins, a swollen paunch, flat feet or spindle-shanks, or one that went bow-legged or knock-kneed or had misshapen limbs of any kind, nor did I ever see one blind of an eye nor halt in his speech, nor

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with a prominent navel or a prominent nose. If there be 142
one lame among them, or one maimed in hand, arm, eye, 732
or any other member, that defect he owes to enemy, wild beast, or accident, not to his mother; for the women there, in comparison with other lands, are less subject to disturbance and weakness of the mind, they have healthy bodies, beautifully proportioned limbs and sturdy frames, and they bear splendid children whose vigour only age can weaken and destroy.

Our countrymen went on a trading expedition some 522
distance from this place and encountered a people whose wits were not all of wood; for when our men, who as it happened were nicely groomed, and had either shaved or not yet come to grow a beard, were spreading out their wares for sale and inviting purchasers, this people cast a humorous scoff at them, that they should summon their husbands if they wished to come to terms, for they never did business with women. This from savages![1])

Their hearing is quick, their sense of smell acute, and 151
their sight, as I have said, so keen that when in quest of 222
honey they perform the amazing feat of following with their eyes the tiny bee in its flight to the honeycomb whether it be lodged in a lofty rock or hollow tree or hidden cave. And if perchance, owing to the intervention of thicket, wood, river or other obstacle or hindrance, the bee should elude the sight of the pursuer, then he checks his course, turns his face towards the west, and diligently watches for another bee winging its way on the track of the former; this then serves him for a guide and brings him to the desired prize[2]).

Moreover I have observed that our Africans are led to the [222]
bee's nest by the song and flight of a certain little bird that 825
is very fond of honey[2]). It is said that other birds give

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search of honey," he says, "the man will follow the bee as far as 151
he can with his eyes, say at least 15 or 18 yards; in that line 222
of flight he will search for a dropping of the bee and will find it; he will then in the next line of 16 of 15 yards search for another dropping, and the line of these two droppings will indicate the course the bee took to the nest . . . There is a Hottentot at Warmbad who is a great expert in brewing honey beer . . . This fellow told me himself of this manner of finding the honey by following up the droppings of the bees." (Trans. S. Afr. Philos. Soc., 1898, Min. Proc. p. xvi). [273]

[2]) Popularly known in S. Africa as the "honey guide" (Indicator spp.). The natives of Bechuanaland and elsewhere still obtain 222
honey through the agency of this bird, as described by G., and are 136
always careful to leave a little behind in payment.